

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A thrust bearing with needle rollers, the thrust bearing configured to support axial loading between two components, the thrust bearing comprising:
a first race component made of a first sheet metal material comprising high carbon steel and including a flat, circular raceway portion and a flat, circular supporting portion, each defined about an axis, and an axially extending lip portion;
a plurality of needle rollers arranged radially with respect to the axis for rolling contact with the flat raceway portion of the first race component;
a bearing cage retaining the needle rollers and ~~engageable with~~ piloting on the lip portion of the first component ~~for piloting of the bearing cage~~; and
a second race component made of a second sheet metal material that is more ductile and equal to or greater in thickness than the first race component, the second race component ~~[[and]]~~ including a flat portion in contact with the ~~raceway~~ supporting portion of the first race component along substantially an entire portion of the ~~raceway~~ supporting portion ~~supporting the plurality of needle rollers~~ and, also, including a lip portion extending axially and radially from the flat portion and beyond the lip portion of the first race component such that the second race component is engageable by the bearing cage to hold the first race component, the second race component and the bearing cage together as an assembly distinct from the two components between which axial loading is supported by the thrust bearing.

2. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein the axially extending lip portion of the first race component is radially outward of the raceway portion of the first race component.

3. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein the axially extending lip portion of the first race component is radially inward of the raceway portion of the first race component.

4. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, further comprising an additional thrust race including a circular raceway portion for rolling contact with the rollers, the rollers being positioned between the circular raceway portions of the first race component and the additional thrust race.

5. (Currently Amended) A thrust bearing according to claim 4, wherein the additional thrust race comprises two components made of different materials, the first component of the additional thrust race defining the raceway portion and supporting portion and the second component of the additional thrust race including a flat portion in contact with the raceway supporting portion of the first component of the additional thrust race along substantially an entire portion of the raceway supporting portion of the additional thrust race ~~supporting the plurality of rollers~~.

6. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 4, wherein the additional thrust race is engageable by the bearing cage to retain the additional thrust race and the bearing cage together as an assembly.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein the first race component is made of bearing quality steel and the second race component is made of a more easily welded material.

9. (Currently Amended) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first race component is made of a high carbon steel and~~ the second race component is made of a lower carbon steel than the first race component.

10. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein the second race component is staked, at a plurality of locations along a circumference of the lip portion of the second race component, over the lip of the first race component, such that the first race component, the second race component and the bearing cage are retained together as an assembly.

11. (Original) A thrust bearing according to claim 1, wherein the second race component includes an extension portion extending axially from the flat portion of the second race component and in a direction away from the rollers.

12-21 (Canceled)